

A BARTERING PROTOCOL LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system, method and program of the invention enables bartering to be carried out over a network of computer
10 systems. A specific bartering protocol language enables a specification of a needs list of needed items that a user desires to acquire and a specification of an availability list of available items that a user desires to use in trading for one or more of the needed items. Each needed
15 item can be associated with a priority indicating a level of priority that a user has in acquiring the needed item. The needs list may also contain a range of near equivalent items having an associated priority indicating a user's desire to accept a given near equivalent item in lieu of a given
20 needed item. The system performs a search of available items for a match with each of the needed items based upon the needed item's priority wherein the higher priority items are attempted to be matched before lower priority items are matched. The searching is performed first within a same
25 bartering system and performed second across a different bartering system if no match is found during the search within the same bartering system.

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